



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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BOOKS.

"En hoexkens ende boexkens."

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND CO. have sent a delightful collection, tastefully and appropriately got up as the books of this firm usually are, and thoroughly good in tone, literary style, and illustrations. A series of charming little red books, 2s. 6d. each, is particularly attractive. It includes:—

Agnes Hopetoun's Schools and Holidays, by Mrs. Oliphant, which tells the story of Agnes from her tenth to her sixteenth year, and shows the mother-training and life-discipline which went to turn out a "gentlewoman" of the old school. A girl must needs be the better for reading it, and a mother would find in *Agnes Hopetoun* many suggestions for the better bringing-up of her own little maidens. We need not say that it is beautifully written, and is quite free from all goody-goody talk and preaching.

When I was a Little Girl, by the author of *St. Olaves*, is somewhat on the same lines, though suitable for a much younger child. Here, as in *Agnes Hopetoun*, children are taken seriously. It is very bright, pleasant reading, and we can imagine a little party of from ten downwards nestling round "mother" to hear *When I was a Little Girl*.

The Heroes of Asgard, by A. and E. Kearey, is a little book we are particularly delighted to see. The imaginations of our children have long been peopled with the gods and heroes of Greek mythology, but the mythology of the north should on the whole be more congenial to us. It is freer, purer, if less graceful and less beautiful, and the child whose early imaginations are peopled with the heroes of the city of Asgard and their most mighty deeds will have received an impulse towards heroic living. The authoresses have told the stories extremely well, and the illustrations are captivating.

The Population of an old Pear-tree; or, Stories of Insect Life, from the French of E. van Bruyssel, edited by the author of the *Heir of Redcliffe*. This is an old favourite, quite the most fascinating book about insects that has ever been written, and the pictures—were there ever such delightful pictures! No child of any age should be without *The Population of an old Pear-tree*.

Our Year, by the author of *John Halifax, Gentleman*. A child's book in prose and verse. The Natural History of the months woven in with family talk and play. A most pleasant book for a child's library.

The Story of Wandering Willie, by the author of *Effie's Friends*, is a beautiful and heartening tale.

Little Sunshine's Holiday, by the author of *John Halifax, Gentleman*. Little Sunny is a dear little girl of five who goes to Scotland on a visit with "Papa and Mamma," and sees and says and enjoys a great deal, and is a very loveable little companion on the way. Little boys and girls of her age would like very much to hear about her holiday.

Everyone knows the *Adventures of Herr Baby* by Mrs. Molesworth. Those who do not should lose no time in making this fascinating person's acquaintance.

Us, an old fashioned story, is another of Mrs. Molesworth's charming child-stories, too well known to need praise from us.

All of these nice little red books are quite free from the vice of the modern child's book, what we may call the spectacular presentation of children. Throughout, the children are treated respectfully and seriously. The writers see the distinction between limited understanding and limited knowledge, and know how to give the children bright, merry, interesting tale and talk without writing down to them. The children in these books are never made a show of.

From the same publishers we have:—

True Tales for my Grandsons, by Sir Samuel W. Baker, 3s. 6d. A perfect gift-book for boys. The author understands a boy's love of adventure, love of truth, appreciation of character, and keen interest in "land and sea." It is a delightful miscellany—tales of adventure, sport, love, travel, altogether wholesome and bright, just the thing for a holiday book for a "boy" of any age.

Ismailia. A narrative of the Expedition to Central Africa for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, organised by Ismail, Khedive of Egypt, by the same author, 6s., is too well known to require a word from us. Everyone knows *Ismailia*, we only mention it to remind our readers of a book which would make an intensely interesting and delightful gift for a schoolboy.

Cast up by the Sea. A book for thoughtful schoolboys, by Sir S. Baker, 6s. We cannot better introduce this capital story than by a few words from the author's preface. "Since the publication of the *Albert Nyanza* and the *Nile Tributaries of Abyssinia* I have received numerous letters from boys to whom I was entirely unknown, and who are at this moment unknown to me except through their spontaneous correspondence As a proof of the value that I attach to these warm expressions of interest taken by the young in our past adventures, I now dedicate to all boys (from eight years old to eighty) a story of fiction, combined with certain facts, that will, I trust, relieve the dreariness of a long Christmas evening."

Walks and Talks of Two Schoolboys, by the Rev. J. C. Atkinson, 3s. 6d. A book written more than thirty years ago, and re-issued at the request of fathers who enjoyed it when they were boys. We agree with those fathers. Few things are more sad than the sudden way in which valuable books go "out of print," and to have rescued one such is a service. The book is full of pleasant nature-teaching.

Speaking Likenesses, by Christina Rossetti, with pictures by Arthur Hughes, 4s. 6d. A delightful fairy-tale, with a great deal of useful moral,

so nicely hidden away that you need never find it unless you like. Every now and then we get a touch of satire, meant for children of a larger growth, as in the game of "Hunt the Pincushion." This is a very charming little book.

The Little Lane Prince and his Travelling Cloak, by the author of *John Halifax*, 4s. 6d. A parable for young and old, this is another beautiful fairy-tale with a meaning. Children would enjoy it, and should be the better for reading it.

Truth in Tale, by Bishop Carpenter, 4s. 6d. The Bishop of Ripon knows how to speak to children, and to throw into the form of a graceful tale, words of inspiration that may fashion a life. We have not space to describe these lovely allegories and parables in detail. This is just the book for the Sunday hour's reading with "mother" which the children love so well.

The Victorian Half Century, by Charlotte M. Yonge. Crown 8vo., 1s. 6d., sewed 1s. This is a little jubilee volume which has doubtless found its way into most book-cases. Every child should hear it read by his mother, and learn in the reading the meaning of "Queen and country." It is old enough for the oldest, and young enough for the youngest in a family, and just the book for holiday reading aloud.

Paladin and Saracen; Stories from Ariosto, by Holloway Calthrop, 6s. Here is a volume of most delightful reading aloud for the hour 'between the dark and the daylight.' All about Merlin and the Enchanter Atlas and the Hippogrif, and the Six Champions, and the Paladins, and a hundred other matters with a delightful aroma of enchantment and poetry about them, all told in good story-telling style. *Paladin and Saracen* has a double advantage. It is a literary introduction as well as a delightful story book. The pictures are very captivating. We never knew before quite how wondrous a creature the Hippogrif was.

Alice Learmont, by the author of *John Halifax, Gentleman*. An enchanting fairy tale for children of a larger growth. A folk tale of the 'gude' people, familiar over the Border. That it is well written we need hardly say.

Anyhow Stories for Children, by Mrs. Clifford, with lovely illustrations by Dorothy Tennant. Cr. 8vo., 1s. 6d.; paper covers, 1s. Another book everybody knows. Quite beautiful stories for girls and boys, standing 'where the brook and river meet,' and peering into life with wistful eyes.

The Children's Treasury of Lyrical Poetry, 2s. 6d. Selected and arranged by Francis Turner. Golden Treasury Series. Palgrave.

The Children's Garland from the best Poets, 2s. 6d. Selected and arranged by Coventry Patmore. These are two very happy-making poetry books. Either of them should be a great joy to a boy or girl beginning to awake to the delights of poetry.

Gone to Texas: Letters from our boys. Edited by Thomas Hughes, 4s. 6d. Another book that everybody knows. We only remind our readers that here we have a true tale of delightful boy pluck, enterprise, and adventure by one who knows what boys and young men are made of. Delightful holiday reading for schoolboys.

Some Eminent Women of Our Time, by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, 2s. 6d.

An inspiring book for thoughtful girls. The eminent women are exceedingly well-chosen and most sympathetically treated.

Gordon, by Sir W. Butler; *Livingstone*, by Thomas Hughes. "English Men of Action" Series, 2s. 6d. each. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the authors of these two books. Each has caught what we have elsewhere called 'the heroic impulse' in the glorious life he treats of. Every page is inspiring. No boy or girl should grow up without an intimate heart knowledge of these two heroes of our century, and for the purpose of inspiration to noble living, probably the two biographies under review are quite the best that have been issued.

A York and Lancaster Rose, by Annie Keary, 3s. 6d. A pretty story on more present day lines than those we have hitherto noticed. The Roses are a rich little girl with a rosy face and a poor little girl with a white face, who train each other in Christian character, and are brought into touch with each other by the Sisters of Consolation.

From the S.P.C.K. we have received:—

Little Lady Maria, by the author of "A Fellow of Trinity," etc., 3s. Illustrations by Gordon Brown. A really capital story; an interesting plot which keeps the reader on the *qui vive* to the end of the book; much careful character study; no child display.

Of High and Low Degree, by Helen Milman, 1s. 6d. A bright interesting study of child life and character, but not precisely a book for children. It belongs to a considerable class of charming story-books whose tendency is perhaps to make children self-conscious.

A Bunch of Roses and their Thorns, by Cecilia Selby Lownes, 1s. 6d. A pretty and wholesome story. The roses being a posy of little girls, and the thorns, the faults they are cured of. Suitable for children of ten or so.

The Old House, by Katherine Mary MacSorley, 1s. A pretty touching little tale of the old and of the new, the modern school girl and the old maid with her memories.

The Uttermost Farthing, by Helen Shipton, 2s. 6d. A powerfully written tale, of which the moral is given in a sentence from Emerson. It is the sort of tale to make boys think, and should be useful in a parish library.

Fritz and his Friends, by Lady Dunboyne, 2s. A pleasant chronicle of rich little folk in touch with poor little folk.

The Thirteen Little Black Pigs and other stories, by Mrs. Molesworth, 2s. 6d. Perfectly delightful stories. The "Thirteen Little Black Pigs" and "Pansy's Pansy" are gems. The auntie who takes this book with her for a Christmas present will be sure of giving pleasure to the nursery folk.

Messrs. Longman and Sons have sent:—

A Child's Garland of Song. Words by R. L. Stevenson and music by Dr. C. V. Stanford, 2s. A delicious treasure-trove of Christmas joy.

The True Story Book. Edited by Andrew Lang, 6s. This most delightful story book is, to our mind, almost the best possession Mr. Andrew Lang has made over to the children. The illustrations are ravishing, and a few words from the Editor's introduction will give our readers some idea of the manner of stories that are told. "It is not without diffidence that the Editor offers *The True Story Book* to children.

We have now given them three fairy books, and their very kind and flattering letters to the Editor prove, not only that they like the three fairy books, but that they clamour for more. What disappointment, then, to receive a volume full of adventures which actually happened to real people! But the Editor vows that he does not mean to teach anybody, and he has tried to mix the stories up so much that no clear and consecutive view of history can possibly be obtained from them; moreover, when history does come in, it is not the kind of history favoured most by examiners. They seldom set questions on the Conquest of Mexico, for example. That is a very long story, but, to the Editor's taste, it is simply the best true story in the world, the most unlikely, and the most romantic.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have sent the following:—

Alexina Mackay Ruthquist, by the author of *A. M. Mackay, Pioneer Missionary to Uganda*, 6s. A bright and readable account of missionary work among the women of India, done loyally and lovingly by one who has a claim on our interest as a cousin of the famous Mackay of Uganda.

The Newberry Bible, 6s., is an exceedingly pleasant Bible to use. The paper is good, the type clear, and wide, not over-crowded margins are a great advantage. The Authorised Version is followed, but with certain features in common with the Revised, as, for example, the arrangement of the poetic books. The arrangement into chapter and verse is as in the Authorised Version, but instead of the old headings we have a clearly-printed, thoughtful, simple and clear analysis of each chapter given in the margin. This should be a very great help to the young student. The references, again, are not merely verbal, but are of the kind to assist the student. An effort is made to place the student in possession of the nicest grammatical differences in the original by a system of marks which, for the comfort of the ordinary reader, let us say, are by no means obtrusive. No doubt this attempt to give as far as possible by means of appropriate and simple signs, the accuracy, precision, and certainty of the original Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, should be very valuable to the student, but we recommend the *Newberry Bible* rather as an inviting copy of the Scriptures for a Christmas gift for boys and girls approaching confirmation age. The maps are capital.

Fergus Mactavish: or, A Boy's Will. A story of the Far North West, by J. Macdonald Oxley, 5s. A pleasant story of York Factory with the Indians, the Factors, a boy's temptations and a boy's conquests.

Some Salient Points in the Science of the Earth, by Sir William Dawson, 7s. 6d. This is a very delightful book, and we can imagine few gifts more valuable to young people of scientific tastes. It is important to put these in possession of the last word on the subject, and when a veteran geologist like Sir William Dawson writes in clear and simple English, interesting as a tale and inspiring as a poem, what he offers as the closing deliverance of a veteran worker, we seize on the work with eagerness, and are only too thankful to get a book within the compass of the general reader who has not made a study of geology. It is a comfort, too, to place ourselves in the hands of an acknowledged authority on this deeply interesting subject who writes from a profoundly religious standpoint.

Bible History for Children; or, A Short History of Christianity

after the Days of the Apostles, by Lady Kennett-Barrington. The simple and reverent way in which the Bible narratives are given, as closely as possible in the Bible words, should commend this little book to mothers. The authoress states that "In the selection and narration of the events in the Bible, while following the text of the authorised version, I have by permission largely made use of an excellent Danish manual compiled by Bishop Bacaley."

Edward Stanford has sent:—

Plays for my Pupils, by E. Maude Jackson, 2s. There is a pretty floral birthday greeting to parents at the end of the volume. The plays are perhaps a little too *modern* (shall we call it) in tone for our taste. Children will enjoy them greatly.

Fisher Unwin has sent:—

God's Will and other Stories, Ilse Frapan, translated by Helen A. Macdonell, Pseudonym Library, 1s. 6d. As wholesome and pleasant as Miss Wilkin's stories, though perhaps not quite so racy. But, like hers, these Danish Tales are of sweet sound human nature in the "common people." Not quite suitable for children, but quite good for the young folk home for the holidays.

Kegan Paul and Co. have sent:—

A Child's Religion, by the author of *Jesus the Carpenter of Nazareth*. This little book has some beautiful thoughts and helpful suggestions, but it is doubtful whether the little book is not, on the whole, too metaphysical and analytic for a child's religion. A child's religion is necessarily anthropological. From the "Father" he sees and knows, he rises to the conception of the Heavenly Father. This sort of teaching is rather out of the range of children:—"We call the sun 'he' when we say 'He shines upon the hills,' but we do not mean that the sun is a man. So we call our Heavenly Father 'He,' although we do not mean that God is a great and glorious man, and yet calling Him 'He' has encouraged people to think of him as in appearance like a man. But, as I have told you, we must guard against thinking of Him in that way." Parents will, however, find many invaluable suggestions.

Messrs. Griffith & Farran have sent their books too late for detailed notice, but we must name them for the children's sake. There are four exquisitely illustrated and altogether sound and wholesome picture-books for the nursery folk, and all issued at a marvellously cheap rate:—

Ten Tales by Edith Carrington, who knows so well how to make us love our fellow creatures who cannot speak.

The quite delightful *Old Corner Annual*, edited by Uncle Charlie, full of old rhymes, deliciously illustrated.

Uncle Charlie's Book of Nursery Songs, the songs we have all grown up upon, with most pleasant pictures; and, *Some Sweet Stories of Old* quite exquisitely illustrated.

A few capital books for boys are:—*True Stories of Australasian History*, 2s. 6d., by A. Patchett Martin. Stirring tales of heroism and adventure.

Men of the Backwoods, by Ascot Hope, 5s., who knows how to write for boys and about Indians.

A book about railways, *The Flying Horse*, by Henry Frith, which should be very interesting to boys of a mechanical turn, 3s. 6d.

Blue Jackets, 5s., by Manville Fenn, whose name is a sufficient guarantee that the book is after a boy's heart.

For girls we have:—*When we two parted*, by Sarah Doudney; a favourite writer with girls, 5s.

DEAR EDITOR,—In a new magazine which is at present selling largely at railway stations, there are papers for children I would like to call your attention to. A tale is commenced each month containing a mystery, and children are requested to find the solution and send it up to the Editress. The tale of this month is a most ghastly and horrible one, and that our children are ordered to turn such a mischievous and fearful tale over and over in their minds, and dwell on it, is pernicious and hurtful to their nerves and literary taste in the highest degree. A girl of 16 lives in a house with a forbidden room. There are stealthy turnings of the handle of her door in the dead of night; and once it slowly opens, and in the moonlight she saw her governess standing in the entrance gazing at her bed. She longs to open the door of the forbidden room. I will quote in full in the hope that some influence will be brought to bear on the Editress of the magazine, and that greater care will be taken in future to give our girls only that which is wholesome and elevating. . . . "Before I had time for further conjecture, a ghastly white light sprang into being, that terrible room was illuminated from floor to ceiling, and, pausing half dead with fright on the threshold, I saw swathed in white and seated at a table at the far end a form that was not that of my governess, or of anyone I had ever seen before. . . . Never to my dying day shall I forget the freezing stare of contempt with which it uttered in a clear stern voice these awful words: "Could you not leave me in peace for awhile? If you would escape my wrath, hasten hence speedily; remain, and your blood be on your own head." . . . As the being ceased its menacing utterance, I tottered back, pulling the door after me," etc. The tale may turn out very mild and innocent. The awful being may be an aged grand-parent or a father of the governess, and the narrative may end happily; but that it should stop here, and that children must brood over this gruesome drama for a whole month is, to say the least of it, pernicious. Feeling that we can show what is bad as well as what is beneficial in your pages, I venture to send you my opinion.

Yours truly,

MATER.

I forgot to say that the competition is open only to children under 15, and prizes of one guinea and half a guinea are offered for the best solution.

[We must postpone 'Pater Junior's' important letter about public questions, to make room for Christmas books.—ED.]

OUR WORK.

House of Education Naturalist Club. Notes by M. L. Hodgson.—This month, instead of my usual notes, I intend to give a short list of useful Natural History books suitable for our work, at the request of one of the members of our club—

The Out-door World, by W. Furneau, F.R.G.S., 7s. 6d. (Longmans, Green & Co.), with 16 coloured plates and over 500 illustrations. This book contains much useful information for collectors, giving good methods of collecting and preserving specimens of every kind, animal, vegetable and mineral. It forms a capital reference book for beginners, as everything is very clearly described, and the illustrations are excellent. Some of the chapters are brief, but they will be found most useful, especially those on preserving plants, fungi, mosses, etc. I should recommend all our members to procure this book, but at the same time I would warn them not to go in for indiscriminate collecting, because the book makes it seem so easy and delightful.

Workers without Wage, 2 vols., by Edith Carrington, 2s. 6d. each (Griffiths & Co.) These are both charming books, and we gladly recommend them to our teachers, they can only do good to all who study them, and the quality of mercy to all things is beautifully taught. I know you will all thoroughly appreciate the easy and pleasant manner in which they are written. They are especially useful in pointing out the use of the creatures described, in the economy of nature. One volume has already been adopted into our P.R. School; the second volume is quite as delightful as the one we some of us know very well.

The Industries of Animals, by Frédéric Houssay, 3s. 6d. (W. Scott, 24, Warwick Lane, Lane), with 44 illustrations. Here we have a vast amount of information on the marvellous doings of birds and beasts at home and abroad. This book contains the result of many years of careful study and observation, by our leading naturalists. It is difficult to give you any part of the book as being specially good, but I may mention that I am sure you will like the "Methods of Defence" and "Dwellings" very much indeed, and I strongly advise you to read this book at the first opportunity.

Out of Doors. J. G. Wood, 3s. 6d. (Longmans, Green and Co.) is another interesting book, it contains articles selected from various periodicals, on practical natural history, it is delightful reading and many curious facts may be learned from it.

I will now give a short list of useful books without any comment beyond saying that I have used them for a long time and always found them of great assistance.

Flowers of the Field, C. A. Johns, 7s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

Ponds and Ditches, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

Underground, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

The Woodlands, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

The Sea Shore, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

Lessons from the Animal World (Little children), 4s. S.P.C.K.

Nature and Her Servants, J. G. Wood, 5s. S.P.C.K.